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Tinnes 10

Your Magazine of Choice
November 1998, Vol. 6 Number 3

To Hell
& Back
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Times .10
Your Magazine of Choice
Vol. 6 Number 3
November, 1998
Edmonton, Alberta

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This issue is Dedicated to Sheryl McInnes

Sheryl Anne McInnes

Sheryl McInnes died Tuesday Oct. 20 1998, after suffering from a heart attack at the Edmonton International Airport October 15.



Sheryl is survived by her same sex spouse Maureen Irwin, her children, grandchildren, her mother Eileen Thorn of Victoria BC, sons Kenneth (Shyanne), Sean, daughters Karen, Lisa (Calvin Conner) Jana (Chris Cavilla), and grandchildren Christopher and Meagan, Brendan and Cody, her brother Ted Thorn (Sharon) of Barrie and 2 nephews. She was predeceased by her father Ken, and grandson Brendon.

In 1962-64, Sheryl attended University of Toronto studying Rehabilitation Medicine. In 1991, she was the first Women's Studies graduate at the University of Lethbridge when she completed her Bachelor of Arts (Great Distinction). It was during this time she left the status of student and began to consider herself a scholar. She obtained her Master of Arts Degree in Sociology at the University of Alberta in 1996. At the time of her death, she was a Graduate Student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta, specializing in gender studies. Her Millennium Project was to defend her Ph.D. thesis.

Sheryl was the founding president and executive director of the Parents of Multiple Births Association of Canada (POMBA). From 1977-1981, she ran the Multiple Birth Resource Centre out of her home in Lethbridge. When POMBA affiliated with similar international organizations, such as the International Society for Twin Studies and the International Genetics Society, her world travels began. She presented papers at their various Congresses in Washington DC, Israel, London, Amsterdam and Rome. As a result of this work, she was given the Alberta Achievement Award in 1982 and a Canadian Achievement Award in 1988.

Sheryl's activism career covered many years. In Lethbridge, in 1990, she was the coordinator of "Feminist Action Collective", and the Office Coordinator of the Women's Resource Centre/Alberta Status of Women Action Committee - Lethbridge Office. She was a founding member of Gay and Lesbian Association (GALA/LA)

In Edmonton, Sheryl was on the Board of Directors of ASWAC (Provincial), GALA and GLCCE. She was the editor of Womonspace News and a volunteer at the Women's Resource Centre at the University of Alberta. In 1991-92, Sheryl had been the store manager at Common Woman Books. In 1992, she was the public relations assistant to "Break the Cycle Foundation" where she researched child sexual abuse and wrote positions papers for the tour.

In 1994 Sheryl was the Staff Administrator of the Alberta Common Front where she researched, wrote and prepared materials on the social issues caused by provincial government cutbacks.

From 1994-98, she had done research for Dr. Susan McDaniel, the Women's Dept Faculty of Extension, Faculty of Nursing and Dr. Gurston Dacks. She had been a teaching assistant to Dr. John Gartrell, Dr. Michael Gillespie, Dr. Roz Sydie, Dr. Sharon McIrvin Abu Laban and Dr. Douglas Aole. At the time of her death, Sheryl was excited about her work with Dr. Aoki, working as his Sociology 301 teaching assistant on "Sex and Film". Sheryl did the research and design for a number of publications about multiple births, "The Impact of a Multiple Birth on the Family - International Survey (Canada USA) 1979-80 and the follow up impact study, Canada only, 1985, 1989. She also did the research and writing for the book "Breast feeding Twins, Triplets and Quadruplets, 1982, Chicago: Centre for the Study of Multiple Births, "Twins in School", "Special Delivery" and "The Death of a Twin". In 1993 she wrote a report on "Women and Poverty" for ASWAC. Sheryl also had a number of articles published in magazines and newsletters on various topics pertaining to women's issues.

Sheryl's family would like to thank the doctors and nursing staff of the CCU Unit 24 of the Grey Nuns Community Hospital, especially Brenda and Paulette, Audrey & Leona of RCMP Victim Services of Leduc, Edmonton Airport Regional Authority Firefighters, Air Canada Pilot 234, and Alana from Metropol.

Donations in Sherry's memory may be made to the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Edmonton, #103, 10612-124 St. Edmonton T5N 1S4.

FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

"S. Africa's Soweto Hospital Says Third of Babies HIV-Positive"
Bloomberg News Service

In South Africa, the Sowetan newspaper is reporting that one-third of the children born in the main hospital of Soweto are infected with HIV. The newspaper, citing Dr. Glenda Gray of Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, said that 1,200 HIV-positive babies have been delivered at the hospital since January. The paper also included estimates that there will be 3.5 million HIV-infected people in South Africa by year-end.

"AIDS Has Killed 250,000 Kenyans—Health Ministry" Reuters

The Kenyan health ministry reports that at least 256,750 people in the country have died from AIDS since 1980. The National AIDS Control Program also said that an estimated 1.5 million Kenyans—5 percent of the total population of the country—have HIV or AIDS.

"HIV/AIDS Funding Increases"
Reuters Health Information Services

The fiscal year 1999 budget passed last Thursday by Congress will include a \$350 million increase for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, U.S. Newswire has reported. The Ryan White Care Act will provide \$1.6 billion—with a 61 percent increase for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program—while the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention will receive about \$630 million for HIV prevention efforts. An additional \$130 million will be allocated for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in minority communities, focusing on prevention programs in high-risk groups and increased access to antiretroviral drugs.

"While Stocks last..."
New Scientist

Hoffmann-La Roche has said that it will donate saquinavir, ddC, and AZT to hospitals in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Cameroon, and the Ivory Coast. The drugs are valued at 400,000 British pounds; when supplies run out, the company said it will sell the drugs at reduced prices. Hoffmann-La Roche will purchase the AZT from rival Glaxo Wellcome. Some advocates say the measure is not enough, claiming that ddC and saquinavir are inferior to other anti-HIV drugs on the market. Others praised Hoffmann-La Roche for the contribution, but warned that the supplies should be maintained. Agathe Lawson, the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS advisor for the Ivory Coast, said, "The donations are definitely a good thing because the situation in Africa is so urgent."

"First in New England Receive AIDS Vaccine in Clinical Trial"
Boston Globe Online

Two New England men were the first in the region to be inoculated with VaxGen's AIDSvax in a clinical trial. The trial, which

will involve 5,000 subjects in the United States, began in June in Philadelphia. The Fenway Community Health Center, the only New England center to recruit volunteers for the study, is seeking 150 total volunteers. The center is looking for subjects who are at high risk for the virus, including homosexual men and heterosexual women with infected partners. Intravenous drug users are not included in the trial. The volunteers will have seven injections over a three year period; they will be compensated \$225 over the course of the trial. About one-third of the volunteers will receive placebo injections. The AIDSvax vaccine is the first potential vaccine to reach large-scale testing.

"AIDS Dissidents Wage Lonely Battle"
Toronto Globe and Mail

An international AIDS dissident group has recently opened chapters in Toronto and Vancouver, with 500 supporters in the two cities and 10,000 supporters worldwide. The group, Health Education AIDS Liaison (HEAL), asserts that HIV is not the cause of AIDS. Instead, they believe that drug use—both anti-HIV drugs and illegal drugs—may cause AIDS. Others within the group believe that AIDS is a manifestation of syphilis infection. Dr. Peter Duesberg, a distinguished virologist in California, asserts that drug use is to blame for the disease. If the dissidents are right, then many anti-AIDS drugs could be harming patients instead of helping them. HEAL focuses on challenging major drug companies, who they feel are making money off of other people's

medical problems.

"Mutating Strains of AIDS Virus Can 'Compartmentalize' in Body"
Washington Post

A study of 11 HIV-infected men in North Carolina and Switzerland indicates that HIV can mutate into different strains in the blood and semen of a patient. Pietro Vernazza of St. Gall Cantonal Hospital in Switzerland and Joseph J. Eron of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, report in the October 22 issue of the journal AIDS, that the male genitals and the bloodstream act as separate entities in respect to HIV-infection. They recommend that physicians deal with each area separately when treating HIV-infected patients. Furthermore, most of the subjects with the resistant strains had different strains in their blood and semen.

"HIV Spreads in Vietnam, Death Toll Rises Sharply" Reuters

An official from the National AIDS Protection Committee in Vietnam said that HIV has spread to all but one province in the country and that the AIDS mortality rate has risen by 50 percent in the past month. The official said that there were 10,335 reported HIV cases as of last Saturday, with over 1,890 people with AIDS. An additional 1,008 people have died from AIDS in Vietnam. According to the official, only the remote northern province of Ha Giang remained free of HIV. Unofficial estimates place the number of HIV infected people at a higher level. The National AIDS Protection Committee plans to launch an AIDS awareness campaign during November.



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Sobering report suggests avoiding nonoxynol-9

From The Washington Blade,
By Lisa Keen

There have been a couple of reports recently suggesting caution around the use of the spermicide nonoxynol-9 in AIDS prevention efforts. A report in the New England Journal of Medicine on the use of nonoxynol-9 among female sex workers found it had no apparent ability to prevent the transmission of HIV, gonorrhea, or other infections. Letters in the British medical journal The Lancet suggest its use may be associated with increased risk of urinary tract infections.

Now, in the August issue of the journal Contraception, it appears its use may actually increase the risk of spreading herpes and other sexually transmitted diseases when used in conjunction with anal intercourse.

The study, from the Center for Biomedical

Research in New York, involved mice, not humans. But the researchers found that pre-treating the rectums of mice with nonoxynol-9 (dubbed "N9") before then exposing the mice to the herpes virus via the rectum resulted in herpes infection within four days.

The researchers noted that Gay men "commonly report that they use N9-containing condoms, N9-containing sexual lubricants, or spermicides during rectal intercourse." The study with mice was carried out to determine what effect N9 might have in disease prevention during anal intercourse. "The results," noted the researchers, "were sobering."

"One would expect that the findings could be generalized to other sexually transmitted pathogens such as HIV," wrote the researchers. "In the case of HIV, transmission rates might be anticipated to increase" because the principal target cells for HIV are present in the lining of the rectum and "become more numerous after tissue damage" as often occurs with anal intercourse.

"Until definitive answers concerning the effect of N9-containing products on the human [rectal lining] are available," concluded the researchers, "it is suggested that the prudent course is to avoid the use of N9-containing products during rectal intercourse when there is a risk" of a sexually transmitted infection. Stimulating immune system triggers infections?

Although most patients who begin taking combination therapy experience fewer opportunistic infections, doctors in Australia last month reported on patients who they believe developed infections because they started combination therapy.

In the Aug. 20 issue of the medical journal

AIDS, doctors at a hospital in Queensland reported that they had three patients who developed cryptococcal meningitis within one to six weeks of starting combination therapy. The patients were all considered "late-stage" HIV infection, with CD4 counts below 50. The doctors noted that there have been recent reports of patients developing other infections, such as cytomegalovirus retinitis, within a few weeks of starting therapy, too. The patients seemed to develop the infections in response to improvements in their immune systems.

The Australian doctors say their study suggests the combination therapies "enhanced immune function and unmasked latent infection" in the patients.

"We predict that patients with advanced HIV disease are the individuals most at risk of having a sufficient burden of latent opportunistic pathogens to stimulate" the development of an immune response to the pathogens once the immune system begins to recover.

In brief

A POOL OF CAUTION:

A report in the September issue of Journal of Infectious Diseases warns that men with HIV infection and fewer than 100 CD4 cells are at increased risk of developing the parasitic infection known as intestinal microsporidiosis if they frequent swimming pools or engage in sexual activity with another man. The study, by a researcher from Paris, noted that the infections appear to be spread through the fecal-oral route, whether waterborne or sexual. The infections cause diarrhea and can lead to wasting and no treatment is currently effective. The report also noted that "swimming in pools, reservoirs, or other bodies of surface water is a well-known source of infection for cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, shigellosis and hepatitis."

NEW CMV TREATMENT:

The Food and Drug Administration gave a California pharmaceutical company approval Aug. 26 to market its injectable drug for treatment of cytomegalovirus retinitis in patients with AIDS who are intolerant or unresponsive to currently available treatments. The drug fomivirsen sodium was developed by the Isis Pharmaceutical Company and will be marketed by the CIBA Vision company under the trade name Vitravene Injection. The standard for treatment is either daily intravenous administration of ganciclovir or foscarnet into the blood system or a ganciclovir implant into the eye. Vitravene is injected into the eye daily for 15 days then monthly but is believed to have fewer side effects.

Always watch for outdated information. This article first appeared in 1998. This material is designed to support, not replace, the relationship that exists between you and your doctor.

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Capital City Politics



Ward 4 Voters Say “Yes”!

by City Councillor
Michael Phair

I was pleased that on Monday October 19 the voters of Ward 4 reelected me to serve on Edmonton City Council for the next three years. I am honoured and humbled to be given the responsibility of presenting the views and wishes of the citizens of the Ward and will continue to work hard for the betterment of Edmonton.

For a candidate like myself, every election is exciting. Although this election was said by many to be dull and boring I do not think that this was the case at all. The ‘politically correct’ wisdom was that the voter turn out would be only 20% to 25%, Ward 4 likely lower as there was minimal competition in the race, and interest in VLT’s and the Senate elections was non-existent. I mentioned to a number of people in the final days leading up to election day that I thought that voters were not complacent and would show the ‘critics’ wrong—and voters did just that! Nearly 35% of eligible voters in Ward 4 turned out at the polls, much higher than expected, and even more importantly Ward 4 which usually has the lowest voter turn out had the highest of any Ward! The large number of voters that spoiled or left the senate box blank sent a very strong message about the meaninglessness of this issue. And again this election proved the importance of each

and every vote—the decision to keep the VLT’s in Edmonton was won by less than 600 out of 160,000 votes! VLT’s were a HUGE issue and I find it interesting that in Ward 4 the vote was the opposite—nearly 2000 more people said to get rid of VLT’s than to keep them. I was not surprised and had actively campaigned against VLT’s because that is what I heard people of Ward 4 tell me.

So what has all this got to do with readers of Times.10? In 1995 I received barely 8000 votes and this election I had nearly 20,000 (second highest of any councillor in the city). If the election was ‘so boring’ with ‘no competition’ why was the turnout so much higher than expected? Here’s my sense of what this means:

1. The Friends 4 Phair campaign did a good job of getting information about me out to the people in Ward 4. Additionally we did a super job of encouraging people to get out and vote.
2. In 1995, many lesbians and gays stayed home and did not bother to vote as ‘they were sure I would win’. This election no one stayed home—everyone came out to vote and that made a huge difference!
3. With the memory of the Delwin Vriend decision and the recent murder of Matthew Shepherd, residents of Ward 4 were looking for a quiet, low key way to show that Edmontonians respect differences and do not tolerate hatred. Supporting my candidacy for City Council was one small way to reaffirm the basic decency and civility of the people of this city.

So it was an exciting and challenging election that is now over. I am appreciative and thankful for the help that so many of you provided to my campaign and applaud the thousands who voted!

If you have issues/concerns regarding the city, contact Michael Phair’s office at 496-8146, fax 496-8113 or email: michael.phair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca



Decline in government accountability

By Laurie Blakeman - Liberal
MLA Edmonton Centre

We are now 20 months into the second term of the Klein government. Below are some (but not all) of the areas where Alberta Liberals have expressed concerns over the decline of government accountability to the people of Alberta. Read on to find out how many ways they have to make decisions without consulting the people involved, hand out taxpayers money without requiring accountability, or waste taxpayers money.

Education and Health

Billions of dollars are annually handed over to school boards and RHAs with no accountability to the public as to whose pockets this money ends up in. Once the money is handed over, taxpayers have no idea as to who specifically benefits by expenditures made by those authorities.

Gaming and Lotteries

Government profits from gambling (VLTs and Casinos) will soon approach \$1 billion. Legislature has lost the power of the purse over these funds as the Lottery Fund has become a large cabinet slush fund.

Pine Shakes

The Department of Labour was aware of the potential problems associated with untreated pine but failed to immediately amend the Alberta Building Code. The government also used taxpayer dollars through the Departments of Economic Development and Environmental Protection to promote the production and exportation of untreated pine shakes.

ATB

Failure to provide full information to Albertans on government involvement

in facilitating/influencing the refinancing of West Edmonton Mall in November 1994

Alberta Special Waste Treatment Centre

Failure to provide Albertans with full information on the prospects of the return of the Swan Hills Waste Facility to the Province of Alberta, subsequent to December 31, 1998. (Note that the Alberta government is responsible for site remediation costs of between \$31-\$57 million if the plant is shut down).

Electricity Deregulation

Failure to provide Albertans with full information on the impact of electricity deregulation on the electricity bills of Alberta consumers and how the lack of clarity in the rules guiding deregulation has resulted in the potential for service disruptions and brown-outs.

AOC

Failure to involve Albertans, particularly small business, in the ministerial review of the mandate of the Alberta Opportunity Company. (Note that the review was done behind closed doors before the Standing Committee on Jobs and the Economy in January 1998.)

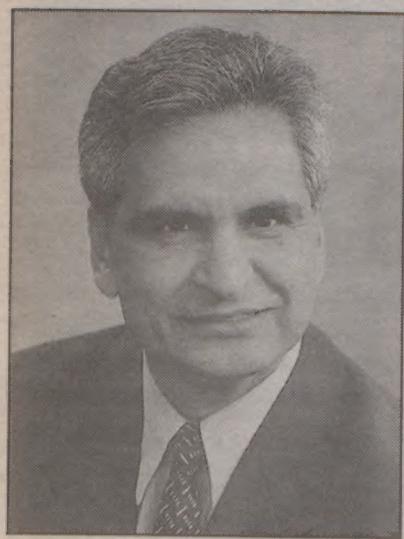
Privatization of Parks and Campgrounds

Nearly half of the provincial parks and the majority of provincial recreational areas are now managed entirely by the private sector on long-term leases. There was no public consultation about this drastic change in the management of these public lands and there is no direct accountability to the public for their management.

Senate Nominees

Creation of two Senate nominee positions who will await appointment by the Prime Minister when an Alberta seat becomes vacant in the Senate. There is no accountability framework in the legislation. There is no description of duties or remuneration to be paid to the nominees while they await appointment and no guarantee they will be appointed. Cost of election approximately \$3 million of taxpayer money. Over half the people who voted in municipal elections in Alberta did not cast a vote for the senators or spoiled their ballots.

Fall session starts November 16th. For more information on any of these issues or any legislation up for debate in the fall session contact Laurie Blakeman MLA Edmonton-Centre. You can reach me by phone 414-0743, fax 414-0772 or e-mail blakeman@oanet.com



What is a Neo-conservative and why should you care?

By Raj Pannu, ND MLA
Edmonton Strathcona

As MLA for Edmonton Strathcona and New Democrat spokesperson for Human

Rights, am pleased to have the chance, through Times .10, to introduce myself to some of you whom I have not yet met.

I was born in Punjab, India, into a politically active family. I was active in student politics, and social democratic parties attracted my interest. I came to teach at the U of A in 1969, and was recruited to the New Democrats in 1971 by the late Grant Notley. After I retired (!!!) I was elected to the Legislature, along with Pam Barrett, in 1997. Given our small (but mighty) caucus of two, I represent people who live in Strathcona, and also take responsibility as critic for a number of government departments, including aboriginal affairs, education and advanced education, environment, energy, justice, and human rights.

During my years of teaching, I saw increasing attacks by the conservative government on our cherished public institutions. I first felt these attacks in the diminishing support for public education. I was appalled that brilliant students were prevented from pursuing their studies because of lack of funding. But free public health care, fair labour laws and support for multiculturalism were also under attack. It was the growth in credibility of such neo-conservative thinking in public policy that drove me into active politics.

When I talk about the neo-conservatives, or the new right, I mean those people, elected and unelected, who promote the idea that the marketplace is everything, and who value only profits and bottom lines. These are the people who say that we cannot afford to spend government money on promoting human or women's rights. Neo-conservatives believe that public services should be privatized, for example that we should allow private, profit-making hospitals to be established in Alberta.

Neo-conservative thinking is also becoming evident in globalization. What this means is that multinational corporations and their CEOs are making the decisions about public policy - instead of democratically elected governments. For example, last year in Alberta, the energy ministers from the APEC countries met to discuss international energy policy. The meetings were not open to the public, but the ministers were available to businessmen who paid \$500 for the privilege. Both the Conservative and Liberal parties are funded by big business, and over the last two decades have been promoters of globalization and have sought to limit the ability of citizens to influence public policy.

Of course members of the GLBT community are familiar with the most visible and intolerant flank of neo-conservatism - religious fundamentalists. These people oppose legislated protection for minorities - not only for lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people but also for racial and ethnic minorities, first nations peoples, people with disabilities and women.

We see the threat of neo-conservatism very clearly in Alberta. Members of the government of Alberta have spoken openly condemning equality. They've left gays and lesbians totally out of the legislative picture, and under Klein have decreased funding for multiculturalism and eliminated the Advisory Council on Women's Issues. I don't have space to get into their economic agenda.

I noted with horror and outrage their hesitation on implementing the recommendations on Vriend. Their attempt to bring Bill 26 using the notwithstanding clause to further punish victims of sexual

sterilization shows how weak the commitment is to human rights.

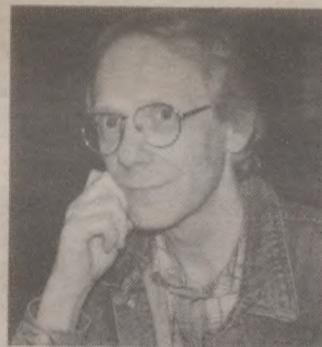
It's understandable that the lgbt community might feel as if it is under siege. But now that Vriend has guaranteed basic equality in Alberta I want to suggest that it's time to think about human rights broadly, to build alliances and unite. The New Democrat party is one place where those alliances can be built, especially through our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Caucus.

I want to invite you to join us at the Alberta New Democrat annual policy Convention, November 20-22 in Edmonton. It's a chance to meet new people and share concerns with others. You can learn firsthand about issues, and as a registered delegate from the GLB Caucus or your local ND association, influence thinking and set policy.

There will be an open meeting of the New Democrat Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Caucus too. We hope to have some of the lawyers who presented to the Supreme Court in the Vriend case available to discuss the case, its impacts and the future for human rights lobbying in Alberta. The meeting will be at 5:30 on Saturday Nov. 21 at the Mayfield Inn.

If you'd like to come to the entire convention, you can contact the GLB Caucus, or your local ND association, through Robert Smith c/o our Provincial Office, 474-2415 or rsmith@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

If you'd like to further discuss the issues I have raised or pass on suggestions to me, please call me at 415-0944 or email rpannu@assembly.ab.ca



From the Editor

by Dennis Cambly

disturbed by this that I turned to my mentor and wonderful secular humanist friend Scott Bidstrup. Scott has written articles printed in Times .10 on many occasions in the past. When we talked of "reverse discrimination" he forwarded the following:

"ANYONE WHO DISCRIMINATES AGAINST ANYONE ELSE ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION HAS *NO BUSINESS EVER* COMPLAINING ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HIMSELF/HERSELF BECAUSE THEY ARE GAY."

To do so is shortsighted at best and rank "hypocrisy" and a show of emotional immaturity and "bigotry" at worst. It exhibits an "us versus them" mentality and only serves to "encourage" the division of the world into two hardened, non-communicating categories: them and us. And "them" outnumber us by nine to one. So, when push comes to shove, guess who loses?

Any gay person worth claiming as a part of our community will welcome and encourage participation by heterosexuals, blacks, Chinese, Quebecois, Greens, Greeks, Gargoyles and anyone else who wishes to ally

themselves with us in our struggle. We've got far too many enemies already (Preston Manning and his crowd among them) to be able to afford making any more just to satisfy our personal prejudices and bigotry.

So here's my advice to those who think that it's necessary to be gay to be part of the gay rights struggle: GET OVER IT OR GO ELSEWHERE! YOU'RE DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD! SO GET LOST!"

Scott does have words that cuts right through the games. As I sit here and listen to Talk Talk and their album entitled Spirit of Eden, I wonder what kind of Eden we are creating. What is going on when we trash our straight friends and those gays in our community with harmful gossip and lies? I am talking about those who work every day to make this a better place to live and call home. Some visible to you, and some not so visible to our community. We at Times .10 work with hundreds of volunteers who never seek praise for the things they do. You may not know this, but we are ONE of FOUR non-profit gay publications remaining in Canada. The others are Perceptions, Wave and Swerve. Non-Profit means that we search out and print stories and information that would not be readily available and would certainly not be available in the

mainstream gay or straight media. It also means that we accept support, **without prejudice**, from those who want to support us. We welcome support from those who are friendly to the gay community and come to us without feeling discrimination. Recently Pink Triangle Press (mainstream gay media) pulled their financial support from Times .10, a non-profit publication, to support one who seeks nothing other than a desire to make a profit from the gay community. They told me face to face that their mandate was to support non-profit gay media in Canada. Well, at least they broke a promise they had made in person, if you want to call a short e-mail message "in person". They did not have the courage to return a phone call!

Perhaps now is the time for us to mend some fences here in the Capital City, and heed the words of my good American friend. Yes, surprised, Scott even knows more about Canada than most Canadians do. You might notice the words "our struggle" and the warning at the beginning of this commentary; he tags it on all of his messages. You may see borders and boundaries, but he and his friends have long since done away with such fences to unity.

I always enjoy listening to Spirit of Eden when the dust is clouding over those big blue skies. Perhaps it is because they are talking about Freedom and the struggle to gain it back after the addiction to hatred. All addictions are difficult to deal with, but maybe, just maybe we can do this, one day at a time. We are making that move now, without prejudice, to all in our community to help us make a unified effort as we continue "our struggle".

To Hell and Back

An Artistic showing by *Edmund Haakonson*



November 2nd to November 28th inclusive,
at Manifesto, 10043-102 Street.

by Marilyn Stecyk

Edmonton artist, Edmund Haakonson has a fascination with the 'state of being'; the communication of more than the physical presence. Each piece of his work shows how

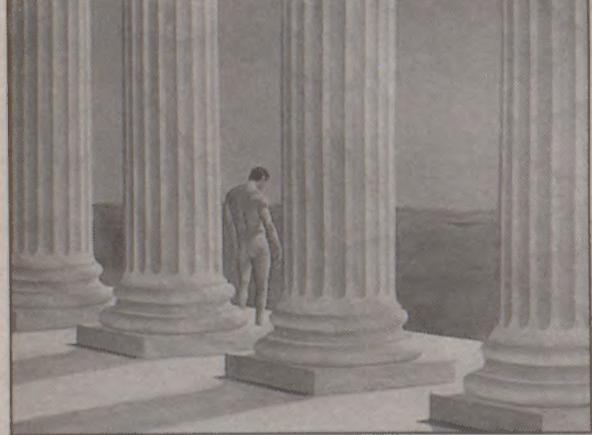
this talented young artist paints the shadows and other minute details of each of his subjects to the extent that you feel that he has captured a part of you. The part that you try to hide from the world. Ironic that I should have thought this about his work, since Haakonson says that, while painting, he was surprised to discover what his subconscious would slip in when he was not looking. He would unconsciously work into these paintings what he himself had consciously chosen to hide in his own life.



He doesn't try to hide his wonderful sense of humor though! Make sure that you check out one particular painting entitled

"Marie, you're not looking too good", (Although my personal favorite is "Palaces, Prisons".)

Historic reference dominates Haakonson's work with the same



authoritative display of power and wealth often depicted in those memorable subjective recordings. Not only does the artist draw out the spirit of his

main subject, he obviously loves the luxury and richness of fabric and accessories, as is evident in the 'life' that they are given.

Edmund Haakonson's talent greatly surpasses his age, as you would expect the author of these works to have many more years of life experience. But then, how many years does it take to go "To Hell And Back"?

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PAULA VOGEL

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survival

JOHN KIRKPATRICK

MIEKO OUCHI

PHILIP WARREN SARONS

STEPHANIE WOLFE

Directed by

DUNCAN MCINTOSH

Set and Lighting Designed
by SCOTT REID

Costumes Designed by
ROBERT SHANNON

Sound Designed by
DARRIN HAGEN



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ALBERTA'S INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association

General Meeting

Tuesday, November 10th

At the Garage Burger Bar & Grill
10244-106 Street,

8:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Discussion Paper of Incorporation

Other Business

Bring a Friend

What is the Gay & Lesbian Centre Here For?

By Sandy Correia

There are many centres that help out individuals that are not well known in the community. But, if you have enough people that use a service then information about it is mostly word of mouth. Although that may be true, it is the responsibility of the establishment to make sure that people know how to find it and what it offers. "I like to think that the centre is the heel of the community" said Fred Dicker, organizer and volunteer at the Gay and Lesbian Centre of Edmonton.

The Centre has been in service for 27 years has much to offer to the community. Services such as counselling and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people their families and friends. "Our main purpose is to talk to anyone who want to talk about gay and lesbian issues" said Dicker. There is also information provided on how to educate the same people on issues they may have to deal with in day to day life. "The office hours are from Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 12 noon. These hours are mostly for people to use our library, professional referrals and information services. And of course,

if anyone needs to talk there is a counselor on duty to help deal with questions and problems." Fred said. "The centre also likes to exercise some central standing in the community by helping out with our own charitable work" "We develop and implement charitable programs and services that benefit the community."

Commonly known as GLCCE to most, their main source of information is on the Internet. "I do fully appreciate that the community does not know about us, but with the setup of our Web Page, many people have learned about what the centre can offer," says Fred Dicker. The Centres' website is a frequently updated source of event information in the Edmonton area. There are also some other community services and resources listed on the GLCCE page. The Internet address is www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce. "Closeted people seek out the Internet and search for information and can still be in secret. It is a good source of information and people can access it easily". "In most cases it tells you what is going on and who is doing it. Throughout the different communities it is the perception that the Internet page is a major source of contact," said Dicker.

The Gay and Lesbian Centre looks to like it might provide a lot of different support services for the community. So why did it take so long to finally find out what the Centre actually is? When asked, "What is the gay and lesbian centre?" a lot of different answers arose, from office hours to difficulty with setting up a phone in program. But still there was no actual answer as to what the centre is here for other than talking. The centre is located in a building that does not even have a sign to let you know that the Centre is even here! It took me about ten minutes to find it and I nearly gave up. The address is Suite 103, 10612-124 Street here in Edmonton. Why is the Centre in hiding? Why is there some sort of secret behind its' location?

At the very least the building should be easy to find! "The reason for the sign not being there was due to vandalism. We have asked for a small discreet sign outside the building so people can find us easier. Plus, not putting up a sign is also for comfort reasons for those who work here and for individuals who come to the Centre," said Dicker.

There is also a lack of funding and charitable status at the Centre due to problems with Revenue Canada. "We have applied for charitable status with the government and it is just a matter of time before it happens. I don't know why it is taking so long" A full time coordinator is also needed at the Centre. "We have applied through the lottery money organization for help so we can afford a coordinator. A paid individual is needed would make it easier for everyone here," Fred said.

During the interview with Mr. Dicker it became a little tense. He found my questions accusatory and myself unwilling to listen. "I don't like how you are not listening to me and jumping down my throat. I am sick and tired of this bullshit that everyone is throwing at me. I do not like your unwillingness right now," he said to me. I could not figure out why he became so defensive when I asked several times, "What is the Centre for?" and he always ran around the question. No actual answer ever came out of the question. Is it because he doesn't really know the reason for the Centres existence? "You do volunteer work for a gay newspaper and you don't even know what the centre is. You're no better than me" said Dicker. Well, that is true that I volunteer for Times 10 and I guess with more research I should be able to find out about an established organization. But, since I took the time to come down to the Centre I should at least be able to find some definitive answer as to what the Centre is here for in the first place. "The old-timers

say that it is bigger and better than ever and it has primary function in the community and it the most important thing around" said Dicker. If this statement is true, why are there no counsellors or volunteers around at 2 p.m. Don't people have problems with their sexuality from noon to 7 at night? If it is the "heel" of the community why don't the people there know about events happening around the city? If the Centre is here for the community why does it look like the Centre is here to be heard but not seen?

There are a lot of things that need to be changed at the Gay and Lesbian Centre of Edmonton. The first should be to be seen in the community and not worry about how many "hits" are occurring on the Centres Web Page. How about having the doors open from 9 in the morning until 10 at night? How about having someone there who can answer questions and comfort people when dealing with their sexuality? It seems that Mr. Dicker's reaction was so defensive because he is also aware that the Centre is not working to its' potential and changes need to be made for the Centre to be the place that people will go for help and conversation.

When I asked a friend what he thought of the Gay and Lesbian Centre's reaction was, "It's a joke, it's a freak show, where people go to do nothing". Most likely and unfortunately, that is the reaction I got from many people I talked to about the Centre. It is really, sad, because in fact, the Centre does offer some fine services. "I like to think that the Centre is the heel of the community" said Dicker. But is it really or can it be at all?

theatres of diversity

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**Sympathy from Jazzberry's Too Staff
and Management to Maureen Irwin**



Reporting Please!

By Murray Billett

On Sunday afternoon in the cold shadows of the Legislative building hundreds of community members and our friends gathered to remember Matthew Sheppard. The harsh reality of hatred and violence was touched upon by many that spoke at the Vigil. The book that was signed is being sent to the Sheppard family, letting them know Edmonton's community cares.

Potential for violence and hatred is an every day reality for each one of us. We have every right to co-exist in our towns and cities without a sense of fear restraint and obligation. We must be proud of who we are and we cannot do that when we hide. I realize the being in the closet at times is a political necessity. As an "very out" homo-political guy I am proud to be out as a gay man consequently, I have the freedom to act outside of accepted and destructive roles of some of the stereo typical male behavior within our society.



Breaking the very image that gives a new social reality to being male. The courts and government are simply a reflection of society. By coming out to our friends, families and co-workers, we can help change society from the inside out. Only then will we continue to be successful in the evolution of equality based issues we seek. That being said I know all too well that it is one thing to know we have rights, it is another not to be afraid to ask that they be respected. That too is an Alberta based reality. We

must begin to be much more vigilante in the reporting of discriminatory and violent acts that we face.

According to a recent Globe and Mail report, over 80 percent of these issues go unreported. That confirms the extremist minority view that we simply, do not now, nor do we ever face discrimination and hatred. We know our reality!

With the support of our friends and family we must report every incident of violence and discrimination. Subsequent to the Vriend decision in April, there have been less than 10 complaints filed at the Alberta Human Right Commission. (See the last edition of Times 10 for Info. on reporting) If you are attacked, this too MUST be reported. Please call 421-2277 the Police Liaison number or 911. If you are not dealt with professionally and with confidence please contact Murray Billett Co-chair of the Liaison committee at 482-7421.

Perhaps more people would understand the world that we live in if everyday, every straight man had walk down the street pretending to be a gay man, simply to protect himself. Every straight women would have to behave as a lesbian. This must be done in order fit into accepted norms, so they will not be verbally or physically gay bashed. Maybe then they would get it.

The Liaison Committee

*The Edmonton Police Service
in cooperation with the
Edmonton Gay and Lesbian Community*

- promoting effective two-way communication
- promoting education and awareness
- identifying and resolving crime and safety concerns
- increasing police awareness of lifestyle issues

To contact the committee, call: 421-2277

(all calls strictly confidential)

If the condom breaks ...

by Wynn Wagner, (*who is not a doctor*)

Call this a piece of journalism or an essay. It isn't medical advice.

I discovered that there is no official advice on what to do if you have an accident during sexual intercourse. If the condom breaks, you are out of luck on written medical advice. I can't find anything. So, last time I was at my doctor's office, I asked him. My doctor specializes in HIV disease.

I said something like this — "so if there's an accident with my boyfriend, should he have a Clorox enema?"

A horrified gasp came from Doc Murphy. He looked scared until he saw that I was pulling his leg.

So with that bit of introduction, I will tell you what he said.

Point #1: calm down

People exposed to HIV don't always catch the disease.

Point #2: Call a specialist immediately

This is not something for the family

doctor. HIV treatment strategy changes so quickly, your odds of beating HIV depend on your seeing a doctor who specializes in HIV. There is solid scientific evidence that proves HIV specialists improve life expectancy, compared to general practitioners.

My doctor says *every minute or hour counts*. He says it's a bad idea to wait — even a day. He says call the specialist immediately.

I'm not sure how you'd go about finding a specialist. You might try calling a local hospital or medical society.

Point #3: drugs

My doctor says he's had two cases recently involving a broken condom. In both cases, he was called within one hour of the accident. In both cases, the doctor prescribed three anti-HIV drugs to be taken full-strength for one month. The three drugs: AZT, 3TC, and nelfinavir. That combination is one of the "drug cocktails" you may have seen in the news recently. The doctor says that in both cases, the person getting the treatment did **not** become HIV-positive.

I hope this helps. Maybe we'll get some research results on this topic.. Since that official advice isn't available, I hope my reporting got you pointed to the answers you need.

Secrets



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Have you shared a Secret lately ?

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Instructions For Life

1. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.
2. Memorize your favorite poem.
3. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.
4. When you say, "I love you", mean it.
5. When you say, "I'm sorry", look the person in the eye.
6. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.
7. Believe in love at first sight.
8. Never laugh at anyone's dreams.
9. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.
10. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.
11. Don't judge people by their relatives.
12. Talk slow but think quick.
13. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, "Why do you want to know?".
14. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.
15. Call your mom.
16. Say "bless you" when you hear someone sneeze.
17. When you lose, don't lose the lesson.
18. Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; Responsibility for all your actions.
19. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.
20. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.
21. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.
22. Marry a man you love to talk to. As you get older, his conversational skills will be as important as any other.
23. Spend some time alone.
24. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.
25. Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
26. Read more books and watch less TV.
27. Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll get to enjoy it a second time.
28. Trust in God but lock your car.
29. A loving atmosphere in your home is so important. Do all you can to create a tranquil harmonious home.
30. In disagreements with loved ones, deal with the current situation. Don't bring up the past.
31. Read between the lines.
32. Share your knowledge. It's a way to achieve immortality.
33. Be gentle with the earth.
34. Pray — there's immeasurable power in it.
35. Never interrupt when you are being flattered.
36. Mind your own business.
37. Once a year, go someplace you've never been before.
38. If you make a lot of money, put it to use helping others while you are living. That is wealth's greatest satisfaction.
39. Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a stroke of luck.
40. Learn the rules, then break some.
41. Remember that the best relationship is one where your love for each other is greater than your need for each other.
42. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.
43. Remember that your character is your destiny.

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Greater Edmonton Gay Community Support Groups and Services



AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network, call 488-5742.

E-mail: anoes@connect.ab.ca.

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 101 St. Last Saturday of the month, at 7:30 - 9:30 PM For more info, call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis/Tess at 474-0862.

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBCE

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

(A group for hairy men and their admirers) meet the last Friday of the month 9:00pm - 11:00pm at Boots n' Saddle. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca is

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail: garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Dennis at 482-6845.

Edmonton Prime Timers

Prime Timers is a social fraternity for older gay and bisexual men and their

friends. The purpose of Prime Timers is to provide an opportunity for mature gay men to fraternize and join together in a program of social activities. Meetings held 2nd Sunday each month at the Unitarian Church at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information address correspondence to Chairman, Edmonton Prime Timers, Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6. Contact Peter at 426-7019. E-mail: mercury@planet.eon.net

Edmonton Vocal Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbigay community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P.O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. There are 4 leagues: 1) Recreational - Contact Rick at 497-7585; 2) Beach (summer) - Contact Rick at 497-7585; 3) Competitive - contact Geoff at 420-6698; 4) Tournament - Contact Andrew at 435-9379. Email : freetobevball@hotmail.com

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, drop-in peer support counselling and social activities arranged and sponsored by the centre. Further information is available at 488-3234. E-Mail glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evenings.

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 403-463-2098 (Graham)

E-mail: gatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities, call our information and contact line at 944-1394 ext 4662.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness (G.A.L.A.)

We are an organization interested in human

rights issues especially related to sexual orientation and changing Federal and Provincial legislation. We are always interested in new members. If you are interested call Murray Billet at 482-7421

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information write to Illusions Social Club. Our mailing address is Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone either 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the last Sunday. For meeting location and time please see the Court notice boards in Boots or the Roost. Our website is at: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information. Email: anoes@connect.ab.ca

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Garneau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p.m.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community formed a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

Long Yang Club Edmonton Chapter

We are an International organization for Gay-Asians and non-Asians. We are the World's largest with chapters in 28 cities and 11 countries. Come and Join US! Contact us at nivek@planet.eon.net. Or call Kevin at 455-2353.

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Tim at 482-2294, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church - South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail: revbev@compusmart.ab.ca

M.C.C. Youth Group

Provides a safe environment for gay/les/bi/trans youth, to express themselves freely, explore sexuality and to experience god's/goddess' healing and wholeness. How we intend to achieve this goal is through social, recreational, educational and cultural activities. We are meeting on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. If you have any further questions please E-mail Pam at pamjoce@telusplanet.net. Our phone number is 429-2321

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Boots & Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM. For information, phone GLCCE at 488-3234. The e-mail address: geoffw@compusmart.ab.ca

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, at 5:00pm September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre, Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information, please call Garry Billett at (403) 426-6311

Out and Out (O2)

An Outdoor and Recreation Group for Edmonton's Lesbogay Community and their friends. Membership is \$5.00 per calendar year. Free newsletter published bimonthly and available at local gay hangouts. O2 Hotline is 988-3132 for activity info., who to contact, how to join etc. Get Involved - Have Fun - Meet New People.

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

PFLAG

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month.. Newsletter editor Ellen at 465-3057. Outreach to speak confidentially to a PFLAG volunteer 944-1394, Voice Box 3524 (PFLAG) Mon-Thurs, 7-9:30 p.m. (Recording 24 hrs a

day). E-mail: showrish@compusmart.ab.ca

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fundraising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call Johann at 437-0687

The Youth Group

"Youth Understanding Youth", meets every Saturday from 8 to 10 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information or the give your input, phone GLCCE at 488-3234 or email: yuyedm@hotmail.com

Visions -

Unitarian Church of Edmonton Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

Wominspace

The purpose of Wominspace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information phone 482-1794 and visit our Web Page address is - <http://www.gaycanada.com/wominspace/>

Regional Organizations

Fort McMurray

Freedom

A New Group in Fort McMurray for gay/les/bi individuals and couples meeting once a month from June - Sept and twice a month from Oct - May. Contact Marc at 715-4237 leave a message during the day or call after 7pm any night to speak directly. You may also contact Colleen at 791-4024. Our e-mail address is padremarc@hotmail.com. Freedom Fort McMurray, Money Mart, Suite #1, 9713 Harding Street.

Out North,
P.O. Box 2895,
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On Saturday, October 17th over 2000 people attended functions put on around the Capital City in the following venues: The Garneau Theatre, Boots, Jazzberry's Too Cafe, Rebar and Secrets Bar and Grill. It is with much gratitude that we thank all of the staff and management of these businesses. The total proceeds of over \$2000.00 will go to make the holiday season in December happier for people living with HIV or AIDS. The many entertainers are too numerous to mention so we put a small collection on this page of some of the people who participated throughout the evening. Things started with Edmonton Vocal Minority singing at the Garneau prior to the showing of Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss. From there things went wild with Colt Model Wade Neff raising much support at Boots. Other entertainment went on in every venue until the late hours of the night. Just wait until next year! Note it in your books now cause we are cooking up a real surprise visit to the Capital City to help us get things off with a terrific laugh...and then....



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The Truth Is Out There.. :)

Lawn Job

Two guys were carpooling home from work one day. Traffic was crawling along and they were both a bit bored. The driver was looking around and suddenly pointed at two dogs having sex in someone's front lawn. "Look," he shouted, "What are those dogs doing? Fighting?" The passenger, being a man of the world, replied, "They're having sex. Don't tell me that you have never had sex doggie style before." The driver, a bit embarrassed, admitted that he never had. His passenger said, "You have to try it. It's pretty cool. Here's what you do. Tonight when you get home, fix your wife a margarita and then suggest that you want to try this new sexual position." The driver thought a bit, then decided he would give it a try. The next morning, the two commuters were back in the car and the passenger asked, "Well. How did it go?" The driver replied, "It was GREAT! But it took me SIX margaritas just to get her naked in the front lawn!"

Hearing Problems

Seems an elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years.

He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%. The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased you can hear again."

To which the gentleman said, "Oh, I

haven't told my family yet. I just sit

around and listen to the conversations.

I've changed my will three times!"

Out At the Movies

For the first time in many years, an old man traveled from his rural town to the city to attend a movie.

After buying his ticket, he stopped at the concession stand to purchase some popcorn. Handing the attendant \$1.50, he couldn't help but comment, "The last time I came to the movies, popcorn was only 15 cents."

"Well, sir," the attendant replied with a grin, "You're really going to enjoy yourself. We have sound now."

Courtroom Laughs

**Defendant: Judge, I want you to appoint me another lawyer.

Judge: And why is that?

Defendant: Because the Public Defender isn't interested in my case.

Judge (to Public Defender): Do you have any comments on the defendant's motion?

Public Defender: I'm sorry, Your Honor. I wasn't listening.

Judge: The charge here is theft of frozen chickens. Are you the defendant?

Defendant: No, sir, I'm the guy who stole the chickens.

At The Race Track

A group of third, fourth and fifth graders, accompanied by two female teachers, went on a field trip to the local racetrack to learn about thoroughbred horses and the supporting industry. During the tour, some of the children wanted to go to the toilet, so it was decided that the girls would go with one teacher and the boys would go with the other. As the teacher assigned to the boys waited outside the men's toilet, one of the boys came out and told her he couldn't reach the urinal. Having no choice, she went inside and began hoisting the little boys up by their armpits, one by one. As she lifted one, she couldn't help but notice that he was unusually well endowed for an elementary school child.

"I guess you must be in the fifth," she said.

"No ma'am," he replied, "I'm in the seventh, riding Silver Arrow. Thanks for the lift anyhow."

Basket Rides

There is a story about a monastery in Europe perched high on a cliff several hundred feet in the air. The only way to reach the monastery was to be suspended in a basket which was pulled to the top by several monks who pulled and tugged with all their strength. Obviously the ride up the steep cliff in that basket was terrifying. One tourist got exceedingly nervous about half-way up as he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed.

With a trembling voice he asked the monk who was riding with him in the basket how often they changed the rope. The monk thought for a moment and answered brusquely, "Whenever it breaks."

ASS in the News

A preacher wanted to raise money for his church and on being told that there was a fortune in horse racing, decided to purchase a racehorse and enter it in the races. However at the local auction, the going price for horses was so high that he ended up buying a donkey instead. He figured that since he had it, he might as well go ahead and enter it in the races. To his surprise, the donkey came in third! The next day the local paper carried this headline:

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Every Monday
at Midnight

1st Prize \$100.00 Cash

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\$6.50

Jugs

and

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MEN GET
HAPPY HOUR
PRICES!

You'll want to
take off some
clothes and
stay awhile

D.J. LEFTY

The preacher was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the race again, and this time it won.

The paper read:

PREACHER'S ASS OUT IN FRONT
The Bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the preacher not to enter the donkey in another race.

The paper headline read:

BISHOP SCRATCHES PREACHER'S ASS

This was too much for the Bishop, so he ordered the preacher to get rid of the donkey. The preacher decided to give it to a nun in a nearby convent.

The paper headline the next day read:
NUN HAS BEST ASS IN TOWN

The Bishop fainted. He informed the nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey, so she sold it to a farmer for \$10.00.

Next day the headline read:
NUN SELLS ASS FOR \$10.00

This was too much for the Bishop, so he ordered the nun to buy back the donkey, lead it to the plains where it could run wild and free. Next day, the headline in the paper read:

NUN ANNOUNCES HER ASS IS WILD AND FREE

The Bishop was buried the next day.

Getting Dressed In A Hurry

A police officer, though scheduled for all-night duty at the station, was relieved of duty early and arrived home four hours ahead of schedule, at 2 in the morning. Not wanting to wake his wife, he undressed in the dark, crept into the bedroom and started to climb into bed. Just then, his wife sleepily sat up and said, "Mike, dearest, would you go down to the all-night drug store on the next block and get me some aspirin? I've got a splitting headache."

"Certainly, honey," he said, and feeling his way across the dark room, he got dressed and walked over to the drug store.

As he arrived, the pharmacist looked up in surprise, "Say," said the druggist, "I know you - aren't you a policeman? Officer Fenwick, right?"

"Yeah, so?" said the officer.

"Well what the heck are you doing all dressed up like the Fire Chief?"

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A Dirty Humour Piece...

The popular blonde model bounced into the local card shop, looked around, and approached the clerk. "Do you have any, like, real special birthday cards?" he asked. "Yes, we do," he replied. "As a matter of fact, here's a new one inscribed, 'To the Boy Who Got My Cherry.'"

"Wow, neat!" he squealed. "I'll take the whole box."

Volleyball has started!

If you haven't been out to one of the volleyball leagues yet... you're missing some great fun!

Edmonton tournament

Free-to-be Volleyball Association will be hosting a one-day tournament on November 28, 1998 at Concordia College. Teams from across Alberta and our neighbouring provinces are welcome to register!

It will be a small B and C level tournament with team or individual entries welcome. Teams from across Alberta and our neighbouring provinces are welcome to register! Please contact Andrew at 435-9379 or email freetobevball@hotmail.com.

League play

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We will not be playing on Dec. 21, Dec. 28, Feb. 15, March 29, Apr. 5 and May 24.

Contact Rick at 497-7585 if you are interested or join us on Tuesday evenings or email freetobevball@hotmail.com

Cost: \$50 till Dec. 13 or \$8 drop-in.

Do you want to improve your volleyball skills? Do you want to focus on practice and game situations? Are you willing to have fun and work as a team? Then come out to this league!

Please contact Geoff at 420-6698 for further information or email freetobevball@hotmail.com.

Long Yang Club- Edmonton

We will be having our first social event on Nov 12-98. We are planning a potluck dinner with information and some discussion on the direction that we want to take the club. Any one that is interested in going can call Kevin @ 455-2353 and leave a message or email me at nivek@planet.eon.net. I will email or call you back with the information etc. See you there.



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'I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I just lived the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well.'

Diane Ackerman

Speaking Of Normal

By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW
415-5434

(With gratitude to Gordon Portman, as always for editorial expertise)

A good friend died this week. And each night, lying in bed, my thoughts have wandered, wondering and trying to do the undoable- making sense of tragedy. Sheryl McInnes' death was unforeseen, by all, except, it seems, by her. Looking back, her partner Maureen Irwin, said she thinks that on some level, Sheryl knew her time was coming to an end, sooner rather than later.

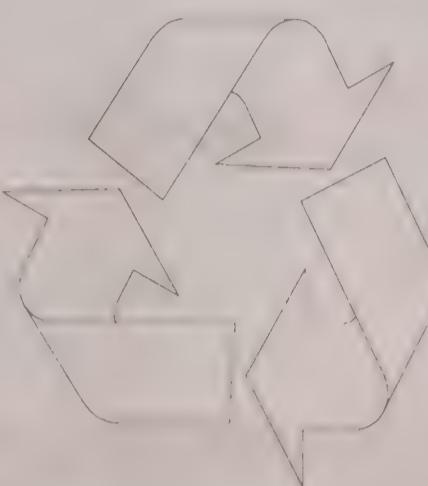
There is a heaviness and sadness to all that I do this week, the energy sapped into grief, loss and confusion. Trying to make some sort of sense out of senselessness. Why, what would have happened if only... recognizing the futility of the questions, and still having them strongly taking energy as they live in my life.

We ask, over and over, "Why" as we struggle to reconcile the "facts" or information at hand, with the ache in our souls. We ask ourselves and others endless variations on "if only," as we wonder about a different outcome that would be less frightening to our souls. We reconstruct the story of the event with endless variations, changing the plots and subplots.

Making sense of senselessness or non-sense is a big part of the work of therapy. My business card says "*through uncertainty to new possibilities*", reflecting the confusion and uncertainty experienced by most of us at times in our lives. And my belief that although it seems awful at the time, the confusion, sadness and so forth will eventually

move aside and cast much less of a shadow on our lives, given respect, support and challenges.

Until we do that, coming to some sort of ease with our experiences, we ask the same questions over and over.



'why am I alive and so many of my friends lost to HIV'; or 'why does she keep hitting me when she promises to stop'? The questions run in endless circles in our heads, controlling our dreams, dominating our lives.

My thoughts are that until there is some sort of other understanding, the WHY will dominate and be in charge. The insistence on the right or real answer to the question can stall our healing.

Often clients know that I do hypnotherapy and come in demanding (yes, demanding) hypnosis, to find out "what exactly happened, I can't heal until I remember every detail". Since our unconscious mind usually refuses demands of this sort, my usual response is to explore how life will be different when the question is answered. More often than not, this exploration of the impact of the

possible knowing raises lots of new questions. Such as, 'if I wasn't abused, then why am I so...', or 'how will I think about my family once I know what happened' or 'how can I continue to be a loyal son or daughter to my family and also be truthful about my experiences'.

Once those are grappled with and made sense of, then, any memories needing to be found, readily show up, are worked with and resolved. Sometimes the client decides that there is no real need to know, that the details of the past events are not needed for healing life now. More often than not, the details show themselves just when needed.

So perhaps the constant asking of the WHY question could be seen as a signal that the question is unanswerable, that what is happening is about more than the facts, it is about our souls. It may well be that no one really knows the answer, even if there is one. And that what we really are talking about is what will the future be like without that nagging question dominating our thoughts, deeds and actions. Who would we be if we could slip away from the question, how can we take more of our life back from sadness and confusion, not ignoring the sadness or confusion, but making a deal with it so we can have more of our life for ourselves.

This is not to suggest that we do not need to respect and grapple with the 'why, what if, if only parts of our experiences. Of course we do. We must try to reconcile as best we can the non-sensible, the tragic and the messages from our soul- all of that is what makes us human. With Sheryl, there is not much sense to be made of what happened at the end of her life, we will never know the why, the what if answers, but we can also remember the laughter, the chuckles, the challenging mind and the courage to be herself.



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GENDER TALK

Cultural Realities and Self Acceptance

By Stephany Lynne Schofield

Fortunately, I am at the end of what I hope will be the last period of major upheaval in my life, and as such I'm able to turn my attention to issues which remain important to me, and I suspect many others.

In past articles, I have attempted to explore the differences and similarities I witnessed and sensed between the Gay and TS/TG experiences. Certainly many exist and understanding these more fully does serve to create compassion in a community where TS/TG individuals find a safe haven from persecution.

Those issues have been largely dealt with and now I would like to turn my attention to information and challenges which specifically impact TS/TG persons.

Clearly, we are a group that is sadly lacking in resources and support in the wider community and as a result, valid information is often not within our immediate grasp. In fact, it has been my experience that we are essentially on our own should we choose to pursue our gender realities. Professionals who specialize in this area are limited in numbers, very difficult to source and at least from my experience, more

theoretically educated than practically useful. This is a dangerous reality that can and has resulted in tragic outcomes.

However, we should likely be thankful that we are not living during the 40's, 50's or 60's. During that time I would have been arrested for writing this article - likely worse if I was identified in public as a TS woman. Now, we have come a long way but then that progress, at least for TG/TS folks is relative. The problems we face socially, culturally, emotionally and practically are far from being solved. It is still dangerous to be a TS/TG person in public and we only need to look at the recent "Gay Bashing" in our city to be reminded of that horrifying fact. Alberta remains a backwater of enlightenment, for certain.

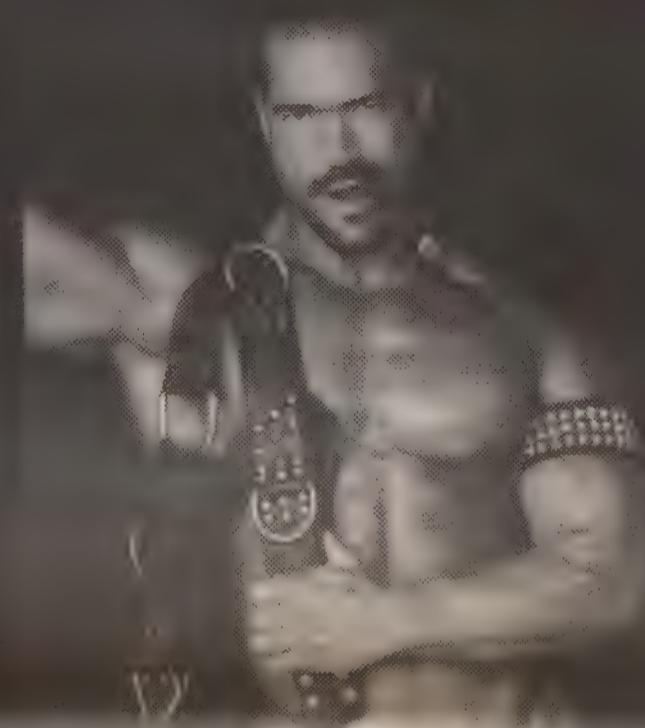
Unfortunately, any attempt to achieve "Gender Congruity" carries with it a stigma that appears to be unparalleled in our culture. As a species we seem to be either culturally or genetically predisposed to instant identification of others on the basis of gender, as a precursor to all else. If you are skeptical of this, then I suggest that you observe yourself the next time you are walking along a crowded sidewalk. As the crowd passes, your first thought will inevitably be "male" or "female" and from there the process begins to jump to other observations that are unique to your socialization. And perhaps it is to this that we must look for the answers to why we perceive gender in such a strong sense.

At birth, we are declared "boy" or "girl" and there is seldom any question about it. We accept that this is the way of it and go on to be socialized as either one or the other. We are shown the "roles" as males or females during our childhood, instructed on the taboos of crossing that gender line, expected to carry through and get on with our lives. Never is there

Continued on page 20

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Gender Talk

Continued from page 19

a question as to whether or not we actually self identify as boys or girls, instead, one look at our genitals is all the evidence that is needed. We are declared! I wish it was that simple.

In reality, our genitals have absolutely nothing to do with identifying us as either male or female, any more than they do in determining our sexual orientation. Genitals, in the simplest sense of the word, are nothing more than the organs we use to reproduce or have sex with. However, someplace along our historic lines we seem to have become confused about this, and in our modern society the words "sex" and "gender" have come to be understood as having the same meaning, at least in one direction. In other words, sex can mean "having it" or "gender". The converse is not applicable. The conclusion is that clearly our anatomical "sex" determines our "gender", to which I say, hogwash! Not true. Simplistic. Wrong. Garbage. Ignorant. I am living proof of the weakness contained in that theory.

Gender is not determined by what does or does not hang between your legs. It is a much, much deeper sense of self that does not manifest itself anatomically. It is the self-identification that you and only you can recognize. Sadly, however, the lives we lead after leaving what I like to call the "gender assignment room" continue to support the myth that sexual organs determine gender. We have been handed our predetermined roles and are expected to live up to them. Guys do this and girls do that and these social roles leave absolutely no room for debate. There is no middle ground, period.

Society believes this myth so fully that even today, in what we are led to believe is an educated society, it is unfathomable to most that someone who was obviously born to one gender would want to dress and act like another. It is so unfathomable that we appear to have developed unwritten rules that justify the infliction of almost every indignity you could imagine on TS/TG folks. The issue seems to transcend rational thinking. We could justifiably be beaten, slandered, fired, evicted, socially and emotionally ostracized and publicly ridiculed, with little recourse. And when it comes to our legal system and our basic human rights, those bastions of democracy that are supposed to be the cornerstones of our modern society, we find only indifference.

When we begin to observe the wider perceptions of gender issues in our culture as a whole, we will realize that the micro-culture of our family, for the most part, supports these beliefs also. Consequently and quite naturally, family values, handed down generation after generation and to a lesser extent, formal educational or the lack thereof, play leading roles in the decision making processes of TS/TG individuals. For many, it is that very atmosphere, and their intuitive understanding of their micro-culture, that either prevents or supports a decision to move towards self actualization. And it is here, close to all that is vital and emotionally important to us, that we face our biggest hurdles. The seeds of self doubt and shame, for 99 percent of all TS/TG persons, can be sourced from this realm.

And too, we cannot ignore the other influences that ultimately create the self perceptions found in TS/TG individuals, like early formal education. Within this

environment, which plays a large part in collective and individual thought, we find little emphasis on the subject of pluralism in terms of individual expression and I can assure you, no mention of alternative gender models. Instead, life, as we deem it should be, is taught only within the context of generally accepted cultural boundaries, and to a great extent reflects the current political thinking. And clearly, Alberta ranks high on this issue. We only need to look toward the "Vriend" case to find reason to believe that politics is not about what is right but what captures votes.

So the seeds that create the inevitable self doubt, guilt, embarrassment, shame and fear found in so many TS/TG people seem to be supported from almost every angle. Each component feeds on the other in what can be best described as a self-fulfilling fantasy of collective ignorance. It follows us wherever we go. There is just nowhere to turn where one might find an empathetic ear. And it would be folly to assume that major change is near at hand in this regard.

For the majority of TS/TG persons, the largest and most emotionally dangerous decisions undoubtedly relate to the values instilled at the family level - to the micro-culture we have all been exposed to. And it is here that the most destructive forces can manifest themselves. The degree and intensity of shame, guilt and fear experienced can be closely linked to those family values, supported by wider social perceptions. The impact of these perceptions, and the assumed reactions of others is clearly the largest consideration in any decision regarding admission. In an all too frequent number of cases, it prevents that from taking place and an individual is left to spend a lifetime dealing privately with an issue that can be so pervasive, so emotionally confusing that it becomes hopeless enough to result in suicide or, in the more fortunate, severe and recurring depression. How sad that as a society we have blindly supported this absurd notion of gender boundaries. I mean, really, what is everyone so afraid of?

As a result of the many barriers to understanding that exist all around us, it is not surprising then that many TS/TG persons who do choose to follow their basic gender instincts find themselves as members of the disenfranchised - collectively shunned, living on the fringes of our society, often unemployed, on welfare and all to frequently, without the support of loved ones. And how sad that too many simply choose to live the "role" of life they have been handed, unable to achieve a true self-discovery that has so many powerful and positive implications.

Without a doubt, finding one's true gender role and living it can be likened to a spiritual experience. The rewards, for me, have become far greater than I could have ever imagined, completely outweighing the challenges and heartache experienced along the way. Finally, after so long, after so many years of struggling with who I was, confused about why I did not feel comfortable as a male, I have discovered who I am. I now know a sense of joy and inner peace beyond anything I could have imagined. I have come home. Gaining acceptance as a TS/TG person in our society is an emotionally challenging process. However, it must start with recognizing the absurdity of the barriers that stand in your way and the true discovery of "self". A truly honest acceptance of your gender issues - the recognition that it is OK to be who you are, in spite of the overwhelming array of signals we receive along the way to the contrary.

Self-admission, in the face of cultural barriers, is a critical first step for all who struggle with gender identity and it cannot be overlooked as an absolutely necessary process previous to all else that might be required. If this cannot be accomplished, then everything that follows will simply be meaningless.

(Stephany Lynne Schofield is a TS, freelance writer living in Edmonton. She also offers informed and practical, private support, for individuals struggling with Gender Orientation issues. She may be contacted via this publication.)

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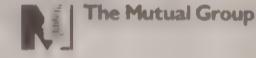


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News from The Okanagan

Rainbow Coalition,
Kelowna, B.C.

Phone 250-860-2555

The "White Party" Kelowna's les/bi/gay annual New Years Eve, extravaganza, takes place Dec. 31st, 1998 at the "Laurel" Advance ticket

sales available from any ORC board member or call 250 860 8555 for further information.

The dates for the les/bi/gay dances taking place in the Kelowna area for 1999 are: Mar 13, May 1, July 3 (pride), Sept. 13, and Dec 4. A wimins dance, sponsored by ORC to be held Feb 6/99. Remember Coffee night for the gay community is each and every Monday evening at the Bean Scene, downtown Kelowna.

News From GLCCE



by Fred Dicker

Our office is now staffed from 9:00 am to Noon so we can answer the phone and offer much better access especially to those who also have regular office hours. We now have a new computer in the office. We are now doing all our email, webpage updates and all other office work at GLCCE. Our telephone information system has now been transferred to our new computer using new software and it is now working fine (482-2855). Anyone can now send us a FAX using the same number (482-2855).

Over the summer we were making plans to move GLCCE to a bigger and better suite in the same building. Those plans have now been changed. We are not moving, however, we will be adding a large meeting room, about 600 square feet, just upstairs in addition to our current space for better service to our community. This space will be available by Christmas. Youth Understanding Youth very much needs this new space to accommodate their numbers. We now have a number of large lockers. These lockers are available to community groups so their "stuff" and office records etc can be stored in a locked cabinet at GLCCE to provide better access for those who need it. Access to our computer and office facilities will also be possible.

Bi-Sexual Social Support Group:

We have needed for some time, a group that will meet regularly to provide social/support to members of the GLBT community who are bi-sexual. A couple of people are working hard to make this happen. For more information do call 913-3076 or Email: purplehaze@briefcase.com

Peer Counselling:

The Community Centre offers a program of free peer counselling. Our counsellors have been trained by our own training course. They are peer counsellors which means they are members of our GLBT community. Ourcounselling service is free and can be accessed either by dropping in to GLCCE or by telephone. Everyone is welcome to use this service: gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their parents, friends, siblings, and neighbors. Anyone who wants to talk about issues or gain information about our community is welcome.

Library:

We have an extensive library of books about our community. Anyone can drop into the Centre and browse our library or borrow books from it. Ourlibrary depends totally on donations, so please consider donating some books.

Youth Group:

"Youth Understanding Youth" is proud to announce their new name. They

meet every Saturday from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at GLCCE. This group is being well attended and is an excellent opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth to meet and socialize aged 25 and under. Most participants are aged 15 to 18. This group is also growing and changing and is seeking direction from youth, not adults, so it can better meet the needs of the youth of Edmonton. For more information call GLCCE or email: yuyedm@hotmail.com

Support Groups:

GLCCE in co-operation with the Gay Men's Outreach Crew,offer a number of free educational and support workshops that have the format of a facilitated discussion groups for both men and women. The next workshop for men starts November 4. Also, Sundays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at GLCCE, there is an ongoing facilitated discussion evening for men to drop-in whenever they can. These evening are being well attended. Contact GLCCE or GMOC at 944-1394 ext. 4662 for more information.

24 hour Information line:

GLCCE is now offering a telephone recorded message service using our new computer. The phone number is 482-2855. When you call, you will be prompted on how to access information about the GLBT community. This information will be updated frequently. This service will provide a lot of the

information provided on our webpage.

Internet Webpage:

Our web page is continuing to grow with more information and links. A large number of people are accessing this site. We are now updating the web page at least once a week. A major part of the page is the community calendar, and it has to be current to be of any use. To help GLCCE with our page, we need everyone who is planning any events to contact us so we can put it on the page for everyone to see. Around the first and the middle of the month, we send the community calendar out to anyone on our email distribution list. If any one has any ideas or information, or wants to be on the distribution list, please contact us.

How to contact GLCCE:

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton is open for drop-in and phone service and counselling from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday except holidays. Location address is Suite 103, 10612-124 street. Telephone number is 488-3234 and messages are returned whenever possible. 24 hour Information line is 482-2855 FAX is 482-2855, Mailing Address is Box 1852, Main Post Office, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2 Email address is - glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca Web Page address is - www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/gcce

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A Chaplain's Reflection

I saw on the news today that Matthew Shepard died. He was the 22-year-old man from Wyoming who was beaten and tortured and left to die for no reason other than he was a homosexual. This tragic murder has raised a national debate again, the kind of periodic soul-searching our society goes through whenever a crime of hate startles us into awareness. The burning of Black churches, the bombing of innocent people, the death of a shy young man from Wyoming: these events suddenly shake us out of complacency and remind us that fear, prejudice and rage are always the shadows just beyond the light of our reason. And so people suddenly start to speak out. There are voices of outrage and grief and demands to know why such a thing could happen. And predictably, there are also defensive voices: the governor of Wyoming trying to explain why his state has no laws to protect people from hate crimes and the leadership of what is called the Christian "right wing" trying to explain why their national ads against homosexuality don't influence people to commit such violence against gays and lesbians. In the days to come, these many voices will fill our media and the cultural consciousness it imprints until we are once again lulled into the more familiar patterns of our lives, dozing off as a nation until the next tragedy rings the alarm of despair.

As the chaplain for our own community, I would like to invite us all to consider Matthew's death in another way. Not through the clamour or denials, not through the shouts or cries of anger: but rather, through the silence of his death, the silence of that young man hanging on his cross of pain alone in the emptiness of a Wyoming night, the silence that ultimately killed him as surely as the beatings he endured.

Silence killed Matthew Shepard. The silence of Christians who know that our scriptures on homosexuality are few and murky in interpretation and far outweighed by the words of a savior whose only comment on human relationships was to call us to never judge but only to love. The silence of well meaning educated people who pretend to have An enlightened view of homosexuality while quietly tolerating the abuse of gays and lesbians in their own communities. The silence of our elected officials who have the authority to make changes but prefer to count votes. The silence of the majority of "straight" Americans who shift uncomfortably when confronted by the thought that gays and lesbians may be no different from themselves, save for the fact that they are walking targets for bigotry, disrespect, cheap humor, and apparently, of murder.

Crimes of hate may live in shouts of rage, but they are born in silence. Here at Trinity, I hope we will all listen to that silence. Before we jump to decry Matthew's senseless death or before we seek to rationalize it with loud disclaimers: I hope we will just hear the silence. A young man's heart has ceased to beat. Hear the silence of that awful truth. It is the silence of death. It is the silence that descends on us like a shroud. At Trinity, as in Wyoming, we are men and women surrounded by the silence of our own fear. Our fear of those who are different. Our fear of being identified with the scapegoat. Our fear of taking an unpopular position for the sake of those who can not stand alone. Our fear of social and religious change. Our fear comes in many forms but it always comes silently. A

whispered joke. A glance to look away from the truth. A quick shake of the head to deny any complicity in the pain of others. These silent acts of our own fear of homosexuality are acted out on this campus every day just as they are acted out every day in Wyoming. Through silence, we give ourselves permission to practice what we pretend to abhor. With silence, we condemn scores of our neighbors to live in the shadows of hate. In silence, we observe the suffering of any group of people who have been declared expendable by our society.

As a person of faith, I will listen, as we all will, to the many voices which will eulogize Matthew Shepard. I will carry that part of our national shame on my shoulders. But I will also listen to the silence which speaks much more eloquently still to the truth behind his death. I will listen and I will remember. And I will renew my resolve never to allow this silence to have the last word. Not for Matthew. Not for gay men or lesbian women. Not for any person in our society of any color or condition who has been singled out for persecution. Not in my church. Not in my nation. Not in Wyoming. And not at Trinity College.



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Aids in the Developing World: Where Is Your Anger?

By Richard Stern

While thousands die of AIDS in the developing world, their brothers and sisters in Europe and North America are taking medication and getting back to the business of focusing on life instead of death. The medications do work. I have seen dramatic evidence of that in Costa Rica, while working as a Psychologist in the Triangulo Rosa AIDS service organization here. Last year, a dozen of my clients and friends died of AIDS. This year, following the decision of the Costa Rican Supreme Court ordering the government to provide retroviral medications to all people in the advanced stages of AIDS (CD4 of 350 or less), none of the twenty five or so people with AIDS that I am touch with have died.

Many had multiple hospitalizations in previous years, but this year there have been only a few who have had brief hospitalizations. The medications do work, maybe not for every one, but they are working well here in Costa Rica.

We have a funny way of viewing history. A common criticism of the world's reaction to Hitler genocide, was "How could people just sit back, knowing this was happening, and not do more to prevent it?" Church authorities in Germany and other European could have helped thousands of Holocaust victims to escape, but didn't. I am no expert on the holocaust, but I know that fifty years later we point the finger of complicity at people who were neither Nazis nor Germans, but just remained passive or neutral.

I think in fifty more years, people will be asking the same questions about the AIDS epidemic. How was it possible that so many people with resources and intelligence, who knew so much about AIDS, sat passively by and watched their brothers and sisters die for lack of the same medications that everyone knows can prevent the deaths of people with AIDS?

When the disease broke out and there were no medications, the Northern country activists, with their tradition of skilled protest, took to the streets and demanded better results from public as well as private interests. They demanded the search for medications that could save their lives. But once they got the medications, they have become considerably more passive, almost complacent, seemingly forgetting their brothers and sisters in developing countries who have no skills in protesting and no resources to protest with.

Thousands are dying and the actual value of the raw material ingredients of these pills probably is a few dollars a month per prescription. It's the international economic system and pharmaceutical-pricing structure that brings up the costs of the medications so that the pharmaceutical companies can recover what they say were the costs of the investigations. They had to carry out to develop the medications for people with AIDS in wealthy countries that would be able to afford to buy them.

So this was the Act-Up deal then. Get us our meds at prices that our insurance carriers can afford and once we are ok, we will still be liberal and concerned, but we won't cause too many hassles. If AIDS activism had begun in the developing world, instead of in New York and Paris, you can be sure that the pharmaceutical companies would have "discovered" much cheaper medications.

In the film "The Life and Times of Harvey Milk", there is a touching and telling moment which occurs on the night of the assassination when one of Harvey's closest friends screams out at the silently weeping mourners at the San Francisco capital building "Where is your anger?" I say the same. I know the problem is that the people who could be angry in New York, in London, in Vancouver or in Stockholm, literally don't see their African

and Latin American brothers and sisters dying needlessly of AIDS. They are just too far away. If they were here in Central America, where I am, or in Zaire or India, they would be angry and they would go back to the streets.

Where is UNAIDS in all of this? Where are the activists? What will history say in 50 years about this incredible gap in medical attention that has occurred, and those who stood silently by?

I cross the border into Nicaragua a hundred and twenty miles from San José Costa Rica. I don't see any real difference. The grass is equally green, the road is the same Inter American Highway that stretches from Texas all the way to Panama. What is a border anyway?

Yet, in Costa Rica my friends are getting

their medications. But in Nicaragua, Sergio Navas, founder of the AIDS group called "gente positivo" (Positive People) can't get any medications for himself or for the people in the group who die one by one, month after month. Incredibly, there are only 250 People Living With AIDS at this moment in Nicaragua. How much would it cost to save the lives of all of them? About one and a half yards of a "Stealth Bomber." If one or more pharmaceutical companies donated the stockpiled meds that sit in their warehouses, they could save all the people with AIDS in Nicaragua and it wouldn't cost them anything. The medications are just sitting there anyway.

They won't donate these meds without pressure. The pressure has to occur there, up North in the developed world. The pressure shouldn't stop until all People with AIDS have equal access to care and



The image shows a political campaign poster for Michael Phair. The poster features a large, stylized, blocky font spelling out "Michael Phair" across the top. Below the name, the text "Re-Elected - Thank You for Democracy" is written vertically. At the bottom of the poster, there is a black and white photograph of a man wearing glasses and a suit, smiling. The background of the poster is dark, making the text and photo stand out. On the right side of the poster, there is additional text: "Re-elect Michael Phair on October 19" and "Info: 496-7620". At the very bottom right, there is smaller text: "Campaign Office 10127 - 124 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5N 1P5" and "Website: www.planet.eon.net/~harris/friends4phair".

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SEX, SEX, SEX...It's Always SEX With You Isn't It!

By Robert Wm. Smith
GMOC (Gay Men's OUTreach Crew)

I was requested to write an article on SEX. Where the heck does one start? For a guy my age, who has fathered three sons, and has lived an active life as a homoSEXual male for over twenty years, one would think I should have sufficient experience to come up with a

fairly concise and articulate opinion on SEX; but I don't. The fact is, I could probably be considered somewhat SEXually misinformed.

There isn't a part of our lives that hasn't to some degree been influenced by SEX. We could talk about intraSEXual relationships(?), SEXual encounters, homoSEX, heteroSEX, lesbiSEX, commercial SEX, or SEX in commercials, SEX ads, the SEX trade and trading SEX. We could talk about kinky SEX, passionate SEX, public SEX environments like tearoomSEX and parkSEX, SEXual hang-ups, wet SEX, dry SEX, lack of SEX, SEXual addiction or being all SEXed out. And, we can talk about safer SEX.

The list is endless. SEX is a big topic with even bigger implications. Introduce SEX into the conversation and you are bound to solicit a multitude of responses ranging from approving and adventurous to a prudish denial that SEX even exists. I

mean, what is the first word that is heard in the term homoSEXual? It's SEX, and based on the emphasis given those three letters in the word homoSEXual, biases are formed and a person/people judged. Isn't it odd that the same inference is not given to the word heteroSEXual. It would seem therefore, that the objection to homoSEXuality is in fact, an objection to the realization that homoSEXuals participate in a SEXual act.

Now, it is true that many homoSEXuals are not exactly comfortable with the whole concept of the heteroSEXual SEX act. We all have heard comments that would make anyone cringe about straight SEX, comments that are based as much on ignorance of how heteroSEXuals find pleasure in their SEX act as the anti-homoSEXual biases formed by heteroSEXuals around their SEX act.

When fidelity is discussed, it is not a casual association that is under review, it is the SEXual association. Most often, the urge to stray out of a long-term relationship is based on the perceived need to seek out a more fulfilling SEXual experience. This is also a time where there is a more frequent crossover between orientations. Men, in particular, think nothing of experimenting with their other SEXual self and find justification in the fact that SEX with a man is not the same as cheating with another woman. They suffer guilt and remorse, not from the act of infidelity, but from the social implications of having SEX with another man.

Gay men are equally adventurous when it comes to seeking extra-relationship SEXual experiences. Historically, gay men have gained the reputation of being somewhat more promiscuous and less committed in relationships. The truth is that they are men and the majority of men, whether homoSEXual or heteroSEXual, suffer from a genetically based SEXual "instability/immaturity". I realize that I am inviting an avalanche of

criticism with such comments, but hey, I'm not claiming to be an expert. I am simply putting into words some of the reflections that result from my own SEXual instability.

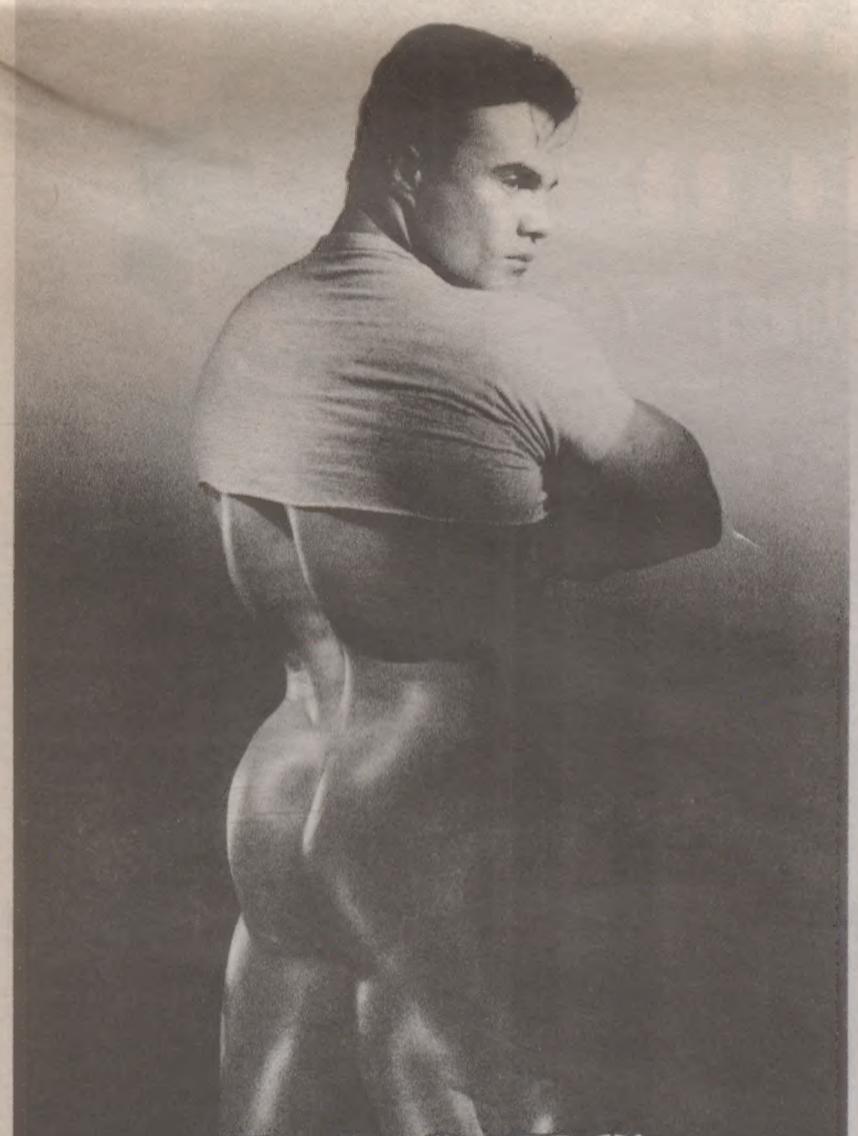
When we talk about image or the impact of one person's look or characteristics on another it is most often accompanied by the terms SEXy or SEXual attraction. SEXy is the image used most often by manufacturers to sell their products; and the wares range anywhere from colognes to underwear, sports cars to sporting events. SEX is the number one human characteristic used to sell anything.

So, putting this all into perspective, let's look briefly at safer SEX. It is a little difficult to address safer SEXual practices given the barrage of symbolism surrounding the word SEX. Hell, the frequency in the use and abuse of the word makes much of the discussion around safer SEX a decidedly confusing and treacherous maze of misconception and innuendo.

Safer SEX is a term used to describe SEXual activity that takes into consideration all of the risk factors placing one in direct line of contact with STDs, communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS. When we discuss safer SEX we have also to consider all of the other factors that have given SEX the front row prominence in human behaviour assessment. Our lives are surrounded by SEX. A discussion or comment on Safer SEX could as easily be directed at the social safety factor of SEXual activity as well as the health safety factors. The one does ultimately influence the reception given the other. This casualness of our attitude toward SEX increases the risk taking behaviour patterns in all SEXually active persons.

So, some serious and not so serious reflections on SEX; given that we as a race are reliant (for the most part) on the SEX act as a means of procreation, and given that we have recognized SEX as a damn good stress release, we are pretty well tied into an acceptance of SEX as a primary in our lives. However, while a primary for one segment of society, SEX becomes an aberration to another segment of society. There is nothing dirty or immoral about SEX. There is nothing deviant or repugnant about SEX. Embracing the SEX act as an expression of mutual need and respect reduces the aloofness and even callousness with which we most often treat discussions around, you know, IT!

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Managing Your Money
By David Ushko

Starting a Small Business

If you are planning on starting a small business, how you set up your business can affect how much tax you have to pay, both right away and later. Your business may start very small, but it is a good idea to consider tax matters when you set it up. It is usually easier to do things right to begin with, rather than try to fix problems later. Here are a few things to think about when you set up your business:

Running a business out of your home

There can be benefits to running a business out of your home, like convenience and lower costs. Some expenses may be tax deductible too. However, there are some rules to follow to qualify for this tax deduction and to calculate what portion of your home expenses you can claim. There are also some limits on what you can claim.

Using your vehicle for business

You may also be able to deduct a portion of your vehicle expenses if you use your own vehicle for your business. Revenue Canada requires that you keep certain detailed records of your vehicle use to calculate and support any such claim. There are also rules to follow for calculating how much you can claim.

Hiring your partner, friends and relatives

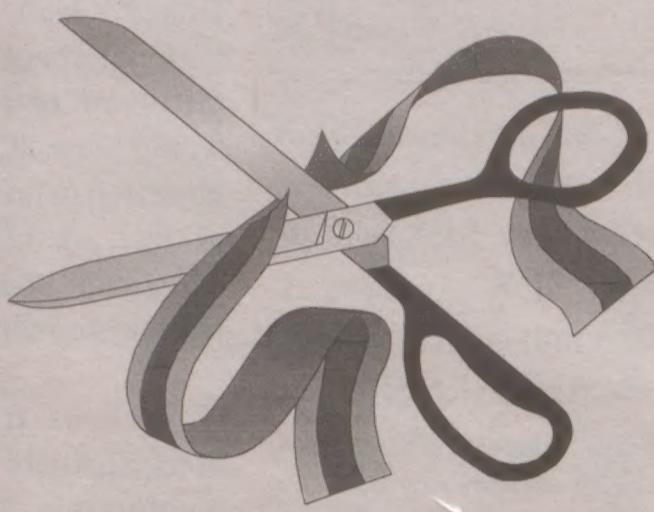
You may hire your partner, friends or

relatives to work for you. The amount you pay to them should be reasonable for the services they perform. You should keep appropriate records to support what you pay to them. If they are an employee, you will also need to deduct income tax and certain other

income from property or investments. There may also be legal benefits of setting up a company for your business and you should consult a legal advisor to discuss these. Of course there are also costs to set up a company. Whether the benefits are greater than the costs depends on a number of things, like how much you expect the business to earn, what you plan to take as a salary from the business, your personal and financial situation and legal considerations.

It is a good idea to take some time to find a professional tax advisor you are comfortable with when you are setting up your business. Meet with them and find out a bit more about some of the tax rules for things like home offices, vehicles and setting up a company. Then you can discuss and plan the best way to set up your business, so you do not pay more tax than necessary.

David Ushko provides a variety of accounting and tax services to individuals and owner managed businesses. This information is of a general nature and should not be relied on for specific situations. For specific advice or information please consult a professional advisor.



employee payroll deductions from their pay as required by Revenue Canada.

Setting up a company

There can be tax benefits to setting up a company for your business, especially if your business has income from an active business rather than

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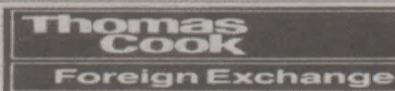
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Editors Robert Thomson and James Johnstone are collecting a wide range of humorous sex stories for an international anthology of gay erotic-themed fiction.

We want funny stories about gay male sex in all its stages and manifestations, from foolish fantasies, and ditzy desires, to cruising comedies—from fumbled flirts and foiled first dates, to slapstick sex with ludicrous lovemaking—stories that are hysterical, amusing, crazy, bizarre, ironic, embarrassing, honest, disarming, sensual, and even hot—stories that illicit anything from snorts and smirks, to giggles, groans, guffaws, and yes, even boners. If graphic descriptions of sex propels the humour and story, so much the better, but keep in mind: **We are not necessarily looking for traditional porn or erotica **

A keen, twisted, or black sense of humour, a good eye for detail and creating tension and irony are invaluable. Send us humorous, well-written fiction peopled by three-dimensional characters, stories that tackle the issues of gay men contemplating, negotiating, instigating, engaging in, terminating, avoiding, fleeing, or even swearing off sex. Any stage, from eye contact to negotiation to transportation to disrobing to getting right down to it to the cigarette afterwards. You are limited only by your imagination. We would like to include writing from the perspectives of as many diverse types of homosex as possible, including s&m, b&d, leather, fantasy, telephone, modem, masturbation, one-on-one, groups. Submissions from all races, classes, education and ethnicity are welcome.

Contributors will receive two free copies and a one-time fee per accepted story.

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• Stories can range from 1000 to 4000 words in length.

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• Include a 2-3 sentence bio with your submission.

• Include your full address, postal code, and phone number (fax and e-mail address if you have them) on a covering letter and/or on the top of the first page of each story.

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The death of Matthew Shepard

JAN WONG

Some of my best friends are gay.

But it wasn't always so. Growing up in Montreal, who knew anything about homosexuality? I only knew it was wrong. The adults around us made fun of limp-wristed men. "Fairies," they sneered.

It didn't occur to me they were talking about my fourth-grade friend. Sheldon was stylish, smart and sassy. He also edged me out as the informal jump-rope champion of Sir Arthur Currie Elementary School.

The recent slaying of a slight Wyoming freshman named Matthew Shepard has sparked a spate of stories about violence against gays. At his funeral, a dozen protesters waved anti-gay signs saying "Matt in Hell" and "God Hates Fags." But many more people stood in front, singing *Amazing Grace*, blocking them with umbrellas so Mr. Shepard's parents wouldn't have to see them. Mourners outnumbered bigots 100 to 1.

So, through the tears there is hope. Attitudes, including my own, have changed.

As a college student in the 1970s, I retained my childhood prejudice against gays. But it was a blind prejudice. I knew no gays, probably because most were in the closet.

In the 1980s I worked at The Boston Globe, where I became friends with my deskmate, Jane. We swam on our lunch hour. We talked shop over dinner. We thought alike on so many things.

Except gays. Occasionally, I spouted off about perversion and other ills. Jane calmly disagreed. What's more, she insisted, gays were all around me.

Where? I once said in exasperation.

"I'm gay," she said.

Jane didn't dump me for being a jerk. She was in the closet, but she let me peek inside. And because of her, I changed.

This month, two high-school dropouts named Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson stopped by a bar in Laramie, Wyo. They pooled their money — all coins — to buy a \$5.50 pitcher of beer. Court documents charge that they spied on Mr. Shepard, who did not mind telling people he was gay, and that, posing as homosexuals, they lured him outside to their pickup truck.

"Guess what?" Mr. McKinney, 22, is alleged to have told him inside the truck. "I'm not gay — and you just got jacked."

A mile outside town they tied Mr. Shepard to a ranch fence, according to the court documents. Then they slashed him, burned him and bashed in his skull with a .357 magnum handgun. The two men took his

wallet and his bloody shoes, and left him to freeze in the dead of night.

Here's how far we've come. A worn manila envelope of 1960s newspaper clippings from The Globe and Mail's data library is labelled, "Homosexuals . . . See: Sex Pervert."

In the 1970s, only half of Canadians favoured laws banning discrimination against gays. In the 1980s, 70 per cent favoured such laws. By 1990, 80 per cent of Canadians supported gay rights.

Broken down by age, older Canadians are less enthusiastic. Polls consistently show that those 18 to 24 are more accepting.

I want my kids to be accepting, too. Last summer, I brought them to Toronto's Gay Pride parade. Sam, 5, loves parades. He kept asking when Santa Claus would show up. Ben, 8, explained it was too hot for the reindeer. My kids already know that being gay means wanting to live like mommy and daddy, except boys with boys and girls with girls. Still, they had questions.

Why were men wearing sequins and high heels? Why were women baring their breasts? I explained that many people once treated gays badly, so they had to live in secret. But now many gays are proud of being gay, and some want to be noticed.

Ben and Sam sampled the free crackers provided by corporations eager to market to eternally affluent dinks (double-incomes, no kids.) They gawked at the giant rainbow flags, the symbol of the gay rights movement. They tossed pink-dyed tampons at a caricature of Mike Harris (about the only thing I didn't bother to explain). Afterwards, the nice lady in charge gave them a rainbow button.

This week, Sam and I went to a party. My kindergartner eyed a middle-aged man wearing rainbow suspenders. "Are you the Gay Pride parade?" Sam asked.

The man, who owns something called the Rainbow Car Wash, looked puzzled. Sam pointed at the suspenders and repeated his question louder. The man wasn't gay.

"Well, that's a first," he said with a tinge of embarrassment when he finally understood. But he didn't seem to mind.

Jane, my Boston Globe friend, subsequently came out of the closet. She is now a writer in San Francisco, far from her disapproving family. I lost touch with my fourth-grade friend, Sheldon. But I heard he became a ballet dancer and choreographer in upstate New York.

Just before he met his killers, Matthew Shepard attended a university meeting to finalize plans for Gay Awareness Week. He died five days later, in the middle of that week, never awaking from a coma.

His funeral was held in the same Episcopal Church where he once wore the white robes of an acolyte. Matthew Shepard, who spoke Arabic and German, wanted to become a diplomat. He dreamed, his friends said, of one day working for human rights. He was 21.

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Right now:

- somebody is very proud of you
- somebody is thinking of you
- somebody is caring about you
- somebody misses you
- somebody wants to talk to you
- somebody wants to be with you
- somebody hopes you aren't in trouble
- somebody is thankful for the support you have provided
- somebody wants to hold your hand
- somebody hopes everything turns out all right
- somebody wants you to be happy
- somebody wants you to find him or her
- somebody is celebrating your successes
- somebody wants to give you a gift
- somebody thinks that you ARE a gift
- somebody hopes you're not too cold, or too hot
- somebody wants to hug you
- somebody loves you
- somebody admires your strength
- somebody is thinking of you and smiling
- somebody thinks the world of you
- somebody wants to protect you
- somebody would do anything for you
- somebody wants to be forgiven
- somebody is grateful for your forgiveness
- somebody wants to laugh with you
- somebody remembers you and wishes that you were there
- somebody needs to know that your love is unconditional
- somebody wants to tell you how much they care
- somebody wants to share their dreams with you
- somebody wants to hold you in their arms
- somebody wants YOU to hold them in your arms
- somebody treasures your spirit
- somebody is grateful for your friendship and love
- somebody can't wait to see you
- somebody loves you for who you are
- somebody loves the way you make them feel
- somebody needs you to pray for them
- somebody wants you to know they are there for you
- somebody wants to be your friend
- somebody stayed up all night thinking about you
- somebody is alive because of you
- somebody is hoping that you noticed her or him
- somebody misses your advice and guidance
- somebody has faith in you
- somebody trusts you
- somebody is praying for you
- somebody needs your support
- somebody will cry when they read this
- somebody hears a song that reminds them of you

"Tread Softly because you tread on my dreams"

Times 10
Publications Society
Urge You

Strained
and
Safer

REMEMBER

- Good NUTRITION
- PROPER USE OF LATEX CONDOMS
- WATER BASED LUBRICANTS
- DENTAL DAMS
- Do NOT SHARE Toys
- Abuse of Alcohol & Drugs
WILL IMPAIR YOUR JUDGEMENT
- A Healthy ATTITUDE
- AIDS still kills